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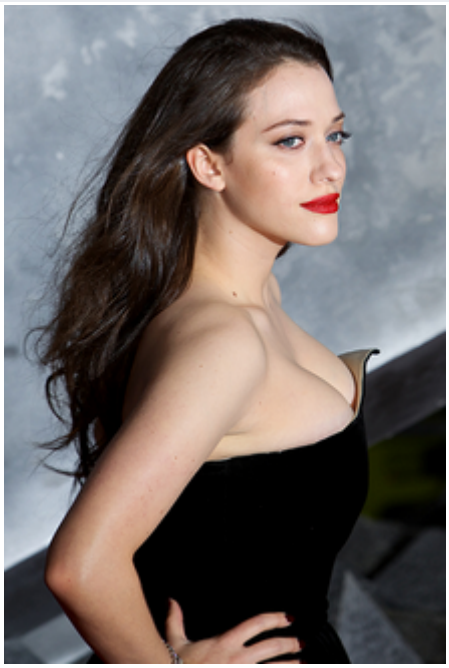
Kat Dennings

Katherine Victoria Litwack (born June 13, 1986), known professionally as **Kat Dennings**, is an American actress. She is known for her starring roles as Max Black in the CBS sitcom *2 Broke Girls* (2011–2017) and as Darcy Lewis in the Marvel Cinematic Universe superhero films *Thor* (2011), *Thor: The Dark World* (2013), *Thor: Love and Thunder* (2022), and the Disney+ miniseries *WandaVision* (2021).

Since making her acting debut in 2000, Dennings has appeared in films including *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* (2005), *Big Momma's House 2* (2006), *Charlie Bartlett* (2007), *The House Bunny* (2008), *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* (2008), *Defendor* (2009), and *Suburban Gothic* (2014).

Kat Dennings



Dennings at the premiere of *Thor: The Dark World* in 2013

Born	Katherine Victoria Litwack June 13, 1986 Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, U.S.
Occupation	Actress
Years active	2000–present
Partner(s)	Andrew W.K. (2021–present; engaged)
Website	www.katdennings.com (http://www.katdennings.com)

Early life

Katherine Victoria Litwack was born on June 13, 1986, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.[1][2][3] Her mother, Ellen Judith Litwack, is a poet and speech therapist,[4][5] and her father, Gerald J. Litwack, is a molecular pharmacologist, and college professor and chairman. Dennings is the youngest of five children.[1][6] Her family is Jewish.[6][7][1][8] Dennings grew up in Penn Cottage, a historic house built in 1694 in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, which she claims was haunted.[9]

Beginning her career at age 9 by acting in commercials, Dennings said her family never had much money for formal acting training.[10] Her first acting job was an advertisement for potato chips that included a poisonous ingredient and never made it to market.[11] In her early years, she worked as an extra to earn her SAG card.[10]

Dennings was homeschooled; her only enrollment at a traditional school was for a half-day at Friends' Central School.[1] She graduated from high school early at age 14,[12] and moved with her family to Los Angeles to pursue acting full time.[3] In an

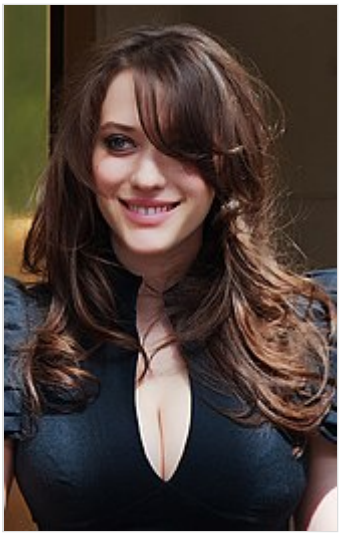
interview with *Philadelphia* magazine in 2008, she explained that she chose "Dennings" as her professional surname because she thought her family name was "a little hideous" and she "wanted to know when someone really knew [her] or they didn't."[1]

Career

2000–2003: Early career

Dennings made her professional debut with an appearance on HBO's *Sex and the City* in 2000, in the episode "Hot Child in the City", playing an obnoxious 13-year-old who hires Samantha to handle publicity for her bat mitzvah.[3][13] She then starred on the short-lived WB sitcom *Raising Dad* from 2001 to 2002 as Sarah, a 15-year-old raised by her widowed father (Bob Saget), with a pre-teen sister (Brie Larson). In 2002, Dennings appeared in the Disney Channel film *The Scream Team* as a teenager who stumbles into a group of ghosts. She was cast for a five-episode run on The WB's *Everwood*, but the role was recast with Nora Zehetner.[14]

2004–2011: Feature film debut and further roles



Dennings at the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival

Dennings continued working on television, guest-starring on *Without a Trace* as a teen whose boyfriend goes missing, and on *Less than Perfect* in 2003. In February 2004, she was cast in a pilot for CBS titled *Sudbury*, about a family of modern-day witches, based on the 1998 film *Practical Magic*, but the series was not picked up.[15][16] Dennings had a recurring role on *ER* from 2005 to 2006 as Zoe Butler, and twice guest-starred in the *CSI* franchise: first on *CSI*, as Missy Wilson in the 2004 episode "Early Rollout". Secondly, she played Sarah Endecott on *CSI: NY*, in the 2005 episode "Manhattan Manhunt".

Dennings made her feature film debut in Hilary Duff's *Raise Your Voice* in 2004 as Sloane, a somber piano student.[17] In 2005, she landed supporting roles as the daughter of Catherine Keener's character in *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and as April in *Down in the Valley*.[12] In 2006, Dennings played a rebellious teenager in the crime comedy film *Big Momma's House 2*, starring Martin Lawrence.[18]

Dennings starred in *Charlie Bartlett* in 2008, the story of a wealthy teenager (Anton Yelchin) who acts as a psychiatrist among students at his new public high school. She played Susan Gardner, Bartlett's love interest and the daughter of the school's Principal Gardner, played by Robert Downey, Jr.[19] Dennings appeared in *The House Bunny* that year, as Mona, a pierced feminist sorority girl.[20]

She also starred that year in the teen comedy romance *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, with Michael Cera. Dennings played Norah Silverberg, the daughter of a famous record producer. She was nominated for the International Press Academy's Satellite Award for Best Actress for her performance.[21]

In September 2008, Dennings was involved in a project to adapt Don DeLillo's novel *End Zone* as a film. Actors Sam Rockwell and Josh Hartnett were also involved, but the project was not greenlit because of its subject matter of nuclear war was considered too controversial.[22]

In 2009, Dennings appeared in *The Answer Man*, a film about a celebrity author whose manifestos become a sort of new Bible. She also co-starred in the Robert Rodriguez-directed dark children's film *Shorts* that year.[23] She played Stacey Thompson, the teenage older sister of the protagonist Toe (Jimmy Bennett).[24]

Dennings and other rising stars were featured in the August 2009 issue of *Vanity Fair*, photographed re-enacting scenes from famous Depression-era films. She was shown in a setting from Sydney Pollack's *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* (1969).[25]

Dennings was cast in the romantic comedy film *Liars (A to E)*, to be directed by Richard Linklater.[26] But the project was cancelled due to cutbacks at Miramax Films by the studio's parent company, Disney.[27] Dennings appeared in the superhero film *Defendor* in 2009, starring Woody Harrelson and Sandra Oh, playing a crack-addicted prostitute.[28][29]

The following year, she starred in the independent feature *Daydream Nation*, as a girl who moves from the city to a strange rural town, and is caught in a love triangle with her high school teacher (Josh Lucas) and a teenage drug dealer (Reece Thompson).[30] The film began shooting in Vancouver in early 2010, and was written and directed by Michael Golbach.[31] In May 2010, Dennings appeared in a music video for "40 Dogs (Like Romeo and Juliet)", a single by Austin, Texas-based musician Bob Schneider. Robert Rodriguez directed the video, which was filmed in various locations around Austin.[32]

Dennings was part of the cast of the Marvel Studios film *Thor*, released in May 2011, and directed by Kenneth Branagh. She played Darcy Lewis, a tech-savvy sidekick and assistant to Natalie Portman's character, Jane Foster.[33] The film went into production in January 2010, and was shot in New Mexico for six weeks in early 2010.[30]

2011–present: *2 Broke Girls* and future projects

In February 2011, Dennings was cast in *2 Broke Girls*, a CBS sitcom written and produced by Michael Patrick King and comedian Whitney Cummings.[34] The series debuted on September 19, 2011, and follows the lives of two underemployed girls. Beth Behrs co-stars as a Manhattan heiress who lost her inheritance, while Dennings plays a tough outspoken girl from Brooklyn.[35] Dennings liked the idea of reaching a wider audience with her work, so she accepted the role on the network sitcom.[36] On May 12, 2017, CBS canceled the series after six seasons.[37]

Dennings with her *2 Broke Girls* co-star Beth Behrs at the 38th People's Choice Awards in January 2012

Dennings starred in the drama film *To Write Love on Her Arms* (originally titled *Renee*) in 2012, with Chad Michael Murray and Rupert Friend. She played Renee Yohe, a Florida teenager who struggled with substance abuse and self-injury, and who inspired the founding of the nonprofit organization To Write Love on Her Arms. The film began production in Orlando, Florida, in February 2011.[38]

In mid-2012, Dennings filmed the independent feature *Suburban Gothic*, playing a small-town bartender. The film premiered in 2014.[39]

Dennings introduced The Black Keys at the 55th Grammy Awards on February 10, 2013.[40] She appeared in a music video for the Hanson single "Get the Girl Back", alongside Nikki Reed. The actresses are close friends and are both fans of the pop group.[41]

The video premiered on April 4, 2013.[42] In 2013, Dennings reprised her role as Darcy Lewis in *Thor: The Dark World*.[43] She worked on the film and *2 Broke Girls* at the same time, flying to London to film for six months between breaks on her CBS sitcom.[44]

In 2018, it was announced that Dennings would star as Abby in the comedy film *Friendsgiving*.[45]

Dennings starred in the Hulu comedy series *Dollface*, beginning in November 2019.[46][47] She reprised her role as Darcy Lewis in the Disney+ miniseries *WandaVision* (2021),[48] and in *Thor: Love and Thunder* (2022).

Personal life

In 2008, Dennings stated that Judaism "is an important part of my history, but, as a whole, religion is not a part of my life." She considers herself more ethnically and culturally affiliated than religiously so.[6]

From 2001 to 2010, Dennings maintained a blog, and also dabbled in video blogging on YouTube.[23]

Dennings lives in Los Angeles with her cat, Millie.[49] She is an animal welfare supporter.[49][50]

Relationships

From 2011 to 2014, Dennings dated her *2 Broke Girls* co-star Nick Zano.[51][52] From 2014 to 2016, Dennings dated singer Josh Groban.[53][54][55]

On May 6, 2021, it was confirmed that Dennings was in a relationship with musician Andrew W.K.; the two met in Los Angeles earlier that year.[56] A week later, on May 13, 2021, the couple announced their engagement on Instagram.[57]

Dennings has been a fan of W.K. since at least 2014.[58]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2004	*Raise Your Voice*	Sloane	
2005	*Down in the Valley*	April	
2005	*The 40-Year-Old Virgin*	Marla Piedmont	
2005	*London*	Lilly	
2006	*Big Momma's House 2*	Molly Fuller	
2007	*Charlie Bartlett*	Susan Gardner	
2008	*The House Bunny*	Mona	
2008	*Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist*	Norah Silverberg	
2009	*The Answer Man*	Dahlia	
2009	*Shorts*	Stacey Thompson	
2009	*Defendor*	Katerina "Kat" Debrofkowitz / Angel	
2010	*Daydream Nation*	Caroline Wexler	
2011	*Thor*	Darcy Lewis	
2012	*To Write Love on Her Arms*	Renee Yohe	
2013	*Thor: The Dark World*	Darcy Lewis	
2014	*Suburban Gothic*	Becca Thompson	
2015	*Hollywood Adventures*	Herself	Cameo
2020	*Friendsgiving*	Abby	
2022	*Thor: Love and Thunder*	Darcy Lewis	Cameo

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2000	*Sex and the City*	Jenny Brier	Episode: "Hot Child in the City"
2001–2002	*Raising Dad*	Sarah Stewart	Main role; 22 episodes
2002	*The Scream Team*	Claire Carlyle	Television film
2003	*Without a Trace*	Jennifer Norton	Episode: "Sons and Daughters"
2003	*Less than Perfect*	Kaitlin	Episode: "The Girl Next Door"
2004	*CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*	Missy Wilson	Episode: "Early Rollout"
2005	*Clubhouse*	Angela	Episode: "Stealing Home"

2005–2006	*ER*	Zoe Butler	5 episodes
2005	*CSI: NY*	Sarah Endecott	Episode: "Manhattan Manhunt"
2009	*American Dad!*	Tanqueray (voice)	Episode: "G-String Circus"
2010	*American Dad!*	Female juror (voice)	Episode: "The People vs. Martin Sugar"
2011–2017	*2 Broke Girls*	Max George Black	Main role; 138 episodes
2012	*Robot Chicken*	Various voices	Episode: "Executed by the State"
2014	*40th People's Choice Awards*	Herself / Host	Television special
2014	*Sesame Street*	Herself	Episode: "Bert's Training Wheels"
2014	*The Newsroom*	Blair Lansing	Episode: "Run"
2015	*RuPaul's Drag Race*	Herself / Guest judge	Episode: "ShakesQueer"
2015–2018	*Drunk History*	Various	3 episodes
2017–2020	*Big Mouth*	Leah Birch (voice)	13 episodes
2017	*The Simpsons*	Valerie (voice)	Episode: "Mr. Lisa's Opus"
2018	*Dallas & Robo*	Dallas Moonshiner (voice)	Main role; 8 episodes Also producer
2019–2022	*Dollface*	Jules Wiley	Main role; 20 episodes Also executive producer
2021	*WandaVision*	Darcy Lewis	Main role; 5 episodes
2021	*Marvel Studios: Assembled*	Herself	Documentary; Episode: "Assembled: The Making of *WandaVision*"
2021	*What If...?*	Darcy Lewis (voice)	Episode: "What If... Thor Were an Only Child?"

Music video

Year	Song	Artist	Role	Notes
2010	"40 Dogs"[59]	Bob Schneider		
2013	"Get the Girl Back"	Hanson	Love Interest	
2021	"Everybody Sins"	Andrew WK	Lover	

Audiobooks

Year	Title	Role	Production company
2020	*The Sandman*	Death	Audible

Awards and nominations

Year	Award	Category	Work	Result
2008	Satellite Award	Best Actress – Motion Picture Drama	*Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*	Nominated
2009	MTV Movie Award	Breakthrough Performance – Female		Nominated
	Teen Choice Award	Choice Movie Actress: Music/Dance		Nominated
2012	Crystal Reel Awards	Best Actress	*To Write Love on Her Arms*	Won
2014	People's Choice Award	Favorite TV Gal Pals (with Beth Behrs)	*2 Broke Girls*	Nominated
2021	Hollywood Critics Association TV Awards[60]	Best Supporting Actress in a Limited Series, Anthology Series, or Television Movie	*WandaVision*	Nominated
2022		Best Actress in a Streaming Series, Comedy	*Dollface*	Nominated

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External links

- Official website (http://katdennings.com/)
- Kat Dennings (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0993507/) at IMDb

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